

# Supervisor Backs Plan To Limit Property Tax

By BURTON CHACE  
County Supervisor

The time has come to take whatever steps are necessary to give needed relief to the property taxpayer.

Some relief has been obtained by paring down the county budget each spring, but it is apparent that more widespread action must be taken to effect some significant relief.

It is for this reason that I have pledged to support a proposed state constitutional amendment which would reduce the existing property tax by approximately 50 per cent. Briefly, the amendment

would phase out school and welfare costs from the property tax, with the financial responsibility for these programs falling to the state. This is only fair, since the state has a wider tax base than do the counties, which rely on property taxes as their major source of revenue.

PETITIONS which would place this amendment on a state ballot are being circulated, and it is hoped that the people will enthusiastically support this measure. Some 520,000 signatures are needed.

There is not only a need to shift some of the burden of government costs off the property taxpayer. This amendment would fulfill that need.

The measure has the unanimous support of Los Angeles County Supervisors, as well as the backing of Assessor Philip Watson.

The proposal calls for elimination of welfare costs and school costs from the property tax at the rate of 20 per cent a year for the next five years. In addition, it restricts the property tax ceiling to 1 per cent of the market value

IT CLEARLY delineates between property-related services, which enhance and maintain the value of property and for which property taxes are logical, and people-related services, which benefit society as a whole—and which society as a whole should support.

There is no valid reason why the entire burden of welfare and education should be placed on the property owner. Other sources of taxation to fund these services must be developed by the State Legislature.

If the federal and state governments are going to force the county to provide welfare

services, they should give us some sources of revenue other than the property tax—and they haven't.

NEXT FISCAL year, for example, the county is faced with a \$15.7 million increase in welfare costs at the request of the state. If this program is forced upon us, approximately 67 cents of the county property tax rate of \$2.4587 per \$100 assessed valuation would go to welfare programs.

And about 50 per cent of the property taxpayer's bill goes to fund school programs.

So you can see that major tax reforms are needed—and soon. There has been much

concern over the plight of the property taxpayer, and this amendment would give the needed relief.

Hermosa, Manhattan, and Redondo Beach Recreation Departments have joined with the County Department of Parks and Recreation to produce a full-scale teenage production of "The Pajama Game" this summer.

Under the guidance of musical comedy professionals, beach area teenagers will provide the cast, stage crew, and orchestra in a summer activity of fun which contributes to the cultural life of the community.

# Diners Club Gets Lease To Operate Quen Mary

Diners Club, Inc. has been given approval in principle to develop hotel and convention facilities aboard the Queen Mary under a 25-year master lease.

Fred Rosenberg, president of Diners Queen Mary, a wholly owned subsidiary of Diners Queen Mary the exclusive credit card corporation, told the Long Beach City Council his organization would spend approximately \$4.5 million to construct 411 of the estimated \$100,000 hotel rooms and extensive banquet, convention, shopping, and entertainment areas on the former Cunard liner.

Under terms of the master lease, Diners Queen Mary will pay the city a minimum rental of \$300,000 from the first through the 17th year and \$500,000 from the 18th through the 25th year. The council also approved the granting to the wholly owned subsidiary of Diners Queen Mary the exclusive right to merchandise Long Beach City souvenirs and articles bearing the image of the Queen Mary. The council will receive 50 per cent of the estimated \$100,000 gross annual income. A master lease had previously been granted by the council to the California Museum of the Sea aboard the Queen Mary.

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